

Appl. No. 09/711,587

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1-62 (cancelled).

Claim 63 (currently amended): A cathode assembly comprising:

a plurality of silicon-comprising emitter tips, at least one of the emitter tips being substantially conical and comprising a tip portion supported by a frustum portion, the tip and frustum portions including sidewalls; and

a coating over the tip portion, the coating not being along the frustum portion sidewalls, wherein the coating comprises a first material ~~having a lower work function than silicon~~ comprising one or more of diamond, boron, and cesium.

Claim 64 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 63 wherein the tip portion terminates in a pointed apex.

Claim 65 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 63 wherein the at least one of the emitter tips comprises conductively doped polysilicon.

Claim 66 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 65 wherein the frustum portion comprises conductively doped polysilicon.

Claim 67 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 65 wherein the tip portion comprises conductively doped polysilicon.

Claim 68 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 63 wherein the at least one of the emitter tips consists essentially of conductively doped polysilicon.

Appl. No. 09/711,587

Claim 69 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 63 wherein the at least one of the emitter tips comprises conductively doped silicon.

Claim 70 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 69 wherein the frustum portion comprises conductively doped silicon.

Claim 71 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 69 wherein the tip portion comprises conductively doped silicon.

Claim 72 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 63 wherein the at least one of the emitter tips consists essentially of conductively doped silicon.

Claim 73 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 63 wherein the first material comprises diamond.

Claim 74 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 63 wherein the first material comprises boron nitride.

Claim 75 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 63 wherein the first material comprises cesium.

Claim 76 (currently amended): The assembly of claim 63 further comprising a second material along the frustum portion sidewall, the second material being different than the ~~coating~~ first material.

Claim 77 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 63 wherein the coating is along the tip portion sidewalls.

Appl. No. 09/711,587

Claim 78 (previously presented): A cathode assembly comprising:

a substrate having a plurality of substantially conical emitter tips thereover, each of the conical emitter tips terminating in a pointed apex and having a tip portion sidewall and a frustum portion sidewall; and

material over the substrate and between at least two of the emitter tips, the material having an upper surface and edges contacting the frustum portion sidewall without contacting the tip portion sidewall, wherein the entirety of the upper surface is exposed.

Claim 79 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 78 wherein the material comprises silicon dioxide.

Claim 80 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 78 wherein the emitter tips comprise silicon.

Claim 81 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 80 wherein the emitter tips comprise conductively doped polysilicon.

Claim 82 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 80 wherein the emitter tips consist essentially of conductively doped polysilicon.

Claim 83 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 80 wherein the emitter tips comprise conductively doped silicon.

Claim 84 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 80 wherein the emitter tips consist essentially of conductively doped silicon.